

Docket No.: 101188-34
Customer No.: 27387
Application No. 09/998,995
Reply to Office Action of December 22, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-4 (canceled)

5. (Currently amended) A data storage system comprising at least one data sending/receiving node and a relay node being provided between said data sending/receiving node and a network, which is for relaying data between said data sending/receiving node and said network, comprising:

a meta-data registering means for registering data processes which should be conducted in said relay node as meta-data, and

a data processing means for conducting data process in accordance with the processes defined by the meta-data registered in said meta-data registering means;

wherein meta-data designated by said data registering means, and data sent from said data sending/receiving node or data received by said data sending/receiving node are processed in accordance with the processes defined by the selected meta-data.~~A data storage system according to Claim 1,~~

wherein meta-data, which define processes for conducting a virus check about data received by said data sending/receiving node, are registered in said meta-data registering means, and wherein data received by said data sending/receiving node is subjected to a virus check in accordance with the processes defined by the meta-data for virus checking in said relay node.

6. (Currently amended) A data storage system comprising at least one data sending/receiving node and a relay node being provided between said data sending/receiving node

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and a network, which is for relaying data between said data sending/receiving node and said network, comprising:

a meta-data registering means for registering data processes which should be conducted in said relay node as meta-data, and

a data processing means for conducting data process in accordance with the processes defined by the meta-data registered in said meta-data registering means;

wherein meta-data designated by said data registering means, and data sent from said data sending/receiving node or data received by said data sending/receiving node are processed in accordance with the processes defined by the selected meta-data. A data storage system according to Claim 1,

wherein meta-data, which define processes for backing up about data dealt in said data sending/receiving node, are registered in said meta-data registering means, and wherein data dealt in said data sending/receiving node are backed up in accordance with the processes defined by the meta-data for backing up in said relay node.

7. (Currently amended) A data storage system comprising at least one data sending/receiving node and a relay node being provided between said data sending/receiving node and a network, which is for relaying data between said data sending/receiving node and said network, comprising:

a meta-data registering means for registering data processes which should be conducted in said relay node as meta-data, and

a data processing means for conducting data process in accordance with the processes defined by the meta-data registered in said meta-data registering means;

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wherein meta-data designated by said data registering means, and data sent from said data sending/receiving node or data received by said data sending/receiving node are processed in accordance with the processes defined by the selected meta-data~~A data storage system according to Claim 1,~~

wherein said relay node further comprises a function for preventing irregular access to said data sending/receiving node, and/or, a function to split the load of communication lines between said relay node and said data sending/receiving node.

8. (Original) A data storage system according to Claim 7, wherein said relay node further comprises a function for preventing data leakage of data sent/received from/by said data sending/receiving node, a function for deleting unnecessary data included in data sent/received from/by said data sending/receiving node, and a function for obtaining a communication log of data sent/received from/by said data sending/receiving node, and wherein said relay node carries out one or more of the functions in accordance with a request from said data sending/receiving node.

9-14 (canceled).